

SUBJECT: **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN
(EMT) CERTIFICATION**

REFERENCE NO. 1014

PURPOSE: To define the requirements for EMT certification

AUTHORITY: California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapters 2, 4, 6, 10, 11

DEFINITIONS:

EMT: An individual who has successfully completed an approved EMT course which meets California training requirements, has passed all required examinations and is certified by a California EMT certifying entity.

EMT Certifying Entity: A public safety agency with an approved EMT training program for the purpose of certifying their personnel or the medical director of the Local EMS Agency (LEMSA).

EMT Certifying Skills Examination: The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) EMT psychomotor examination. Examination results shall be valid for application and certification purposes for two (2) years from the date of the examination.

EMT Certifying Written Examination: The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) EMT cognitive examination. Examination results shall be valid for application and certification purposes for two (2) years from the date of the examination.

Los Angeles County EMT Scope of Practice Training: Training program to ensure an EMT has been oriented to the EMS system and EMT Scope of Practice for Los Angeles County.

PRINCIPLES:

1. EMTs certified by the EMS Agency shall notify the Agency, in writing, of changes to legal name, address, phone, email or employer within thirty (30) days of the event.
2. Los Angeles County EMT Scope of Practice Training is required of all EMTs to function as an EMT in LA County and/or apply for certification through the EMS Agency.
3. EMTs shall adhere to the current EMS Agency prehospital care policies, procedures, and protocols while functioning in Los Angeles County.
4. Continuing Education (EMS CE) and skills competency verification must be completed during the current certification cycle to satisfy the requirements for recertification.

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APPROVED:


Director, EMS Agency


Medical Director, EMS Agency

5. In the case of lapsed certification, EMS CE and skills competency verification completed within twenty-four (24) months prior to application for recertification received shall be valid.
6. Recertification application with required documentation shall be submitted thirty (30) days prior to certification expiration.
7. Initial certification expiration shall be no more than two (2) years from the date of completing certification requirements, NREMT EMT certification expiration, or Out-of-State certification expiration, whichever date is the earliest.
8. A California licensed paramedic may function and perform any activity in the EMT scope of practice without applying for EMT certification and needs no further training and/or testing.
9. All certified EMTs and applicants shall obtain a criminal history background check with results that do not prohibit them from certification pursuant to Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 100214.3 and California Health and Safety Code, Section 1798.200.
10. Incomplete applications will delay processing. The applicant will be notified, in writing, of deficiencies and completion deadline. Failure to comply will result in closure of application and forfeiture of fee.

POLICY:

I. Initial Certification – never certified in California as an EMT or lapse of two years or more

A. Eligibility by completing initial EMT training

In order to be eligible for certification in California, an individual shall:

1. Possess a valid, initial EMT course completion record documenting an EMT course completed within the last two (2) years which is either:
 - a. approved by a California LEMSA
 - b. approved out-of-state which meets current California training requirements
2. Apply for certification within two (2) years of the date of course completion
3. Pass the NREMT EMT written examination and psychomotor (skills) examination within the preceding two (2) years.
4. Be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
5. Possess a CPR card equivalent to BLS for the Healthcare Provider (American Heart Association) or Professional Rescuer (American Red

Cross) which is valid at least two months past the date a complete application is submitted. Online CPR courses are not accepted.

6. Successfully complete the current Los Angeles County EMT Scope of Practice course.
 7. Complete a live scan for a criminal history background check using the California Department of Justice Request for Live Scan Service form obtained from the EMS Agency web site. No other form shall be accepted.
 8. Complete and sign the current EMS Agency EMT Initial Certification Application.
 9. Disclose in a written statement, signed and dated, and include a minute order, docket report, statement of issues, or accusation for any and all:
 - a. certification or licensure action(s).
 - b. criminal history to include arrests, pending charges, and/or convictions.
 10. Pay the established fee.
 11. Submit all documentation listed above (original application and copies of all other documents) along with:
 - a. self-addressed, stamped envelope.
 - b. copy of government-issued identification with photograph (Driver License, California I.D. card, or Passport).
 - c. other health certifications or licenses.
- B. Eligibility with EMT certification from another State
1. Complete all requirements listed in Section I.A. of this reference.
 2. Two (2) year requirement for course completion and applying is waived.
- C. Eligibility with EMT certification from NREMT
1. Complete all requirements listed in Section I.A. of this reference.
 2. Two (2) year requirement for course completion and applying is waived.
 3. Two (2) year requirement for passing the NREMT EMT written and skills examinations are waived.

- D. Eligibility with a current and valid AEMT or Paramedic certification from California, another State or NREMT in good standing
 - 1. Complete all requirements outlined in Section I.A.4-11 of this reference.
 - 2. Submit a copy of current certification(s) and/or license(s).
- E. Certification Issuance
 - 1. EMT shall be issued a wallet-sized certificate card with an effective date when all requirements have been met and reviewed by the EMS Agency.
 - 2. Expiration date shall be no more than two (2) years and is based on the date applicant completes certification requirements and the expiration date of NREMT or out-of-state EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic certification/license.
 - 3. Expiration date shall be the same as California AEMT certification or Paramedic license expiration date.

II. Recertification

- A. Current California EMT certification issued by Los Angeles County EMS Agency
 - 1. Complete, during the current certification cycle, twenty-four (24) hours of one of the following:
 - a. EMT Refresher course from an approved program.
 - b. EMS approved continuing education.
 - i. California EMS CE Provider or Continuing Education Coordinating Board for EMS (CECBEMS) approval.
 - ii. Maximum of 8 hours completed per day.
 - iii. Total of 12 hours of teaching or media-based education.
 - iv. All education must be relevant to EMS in the assessment and management of prehospital patient care.
 - c. Letter from a California approved paramedic training program which meets EMS education certificate requirements documenting the individual has completed didactic with the dates and hours signed by the program director.
 - 2. Possess a CPR card equivalent to BLS for the Healthcare Provider (American Heart Association) or Professional Rescuer (American Red Cross) which is valid at least two months past the expiration date of current certification. Online CPR courses are not accepted.

3. Complete Skills Competency Verification (EMSA-SCV) from an approved California provider.
 4. Complete and sign the current EMS Agency EMT Recertification Application.
 5. Disclose in a written statement, signed and dated and include a minute order, docket report, statement of issues, or accusation for any and all:
 - a. certification or licensure action(s).
 - b. criminal history to include arrests, pending charges, and/or convictions.
 6. Pay the established fee.
 7. Submit all documentation listed above to include:
 - a. original application
 - b. original skills verification (EMSA-SCV) form
 - c. copy of 24 hours of EMS approved continuing education
 - d. copy of the front and back of CPR card
 - e. self-addressed, stamped envelope.
 - f. copy of government-issued identification with photograph (Driver License, California I.D. card, or Passport).
 - g. other health certifications or licenses.
 - h. current employer(s).
- B. Current California EMT certification issued by another EMT Certifying Entity
1. Complete all requirements outlined in Section II.A. of this reference.
 2. Submit a copy of current certification(s) and/or license(s).
 3. Complete a live scan for a criminal history background check using the California Department of Justice Request for Live Scan Service form obtained from the EMS Agency web site. No other form shall be accepted. Submit a copy of the Request for Live Scan Service form after performing live scan fingerprinting.
 4. Successfully complete and submit a copy of certificate for the current Los Angeles County EMT Scope of Practice course.

C. Recertification Issuance

1. If recertification requirements are met less than six (6) months prior to expiration, EMT shall be issued a wallet-sized certificate card with an effective date immediately following the expiration date of the current certificate. The expiration date shall be two (2) years from the date of the current certificate. OR
2. If recertification requirements are met six (6) months or greater prior to expiration, EMT shall be issued a wallet-sized certificate card EMT with an effective date which all requirements have been met and reviewed by the EMS Agency. The expiration date shall be two (2) years from the final day of the final month which recertification is issued. OR
3. Expiration date shall be the same as California AEMT certification or Paramedic license expiration date.

III. Recertification After Lapse

- A. California EMT certification issued by Los Angeles County EMS Agency with a lapse of less than six (6) months.
 1. Complete all requirements outlined in Section II.A. of this reference.
 2. CE and skills competency verification completed within twenty-four (24) months prior to application for recertification received shall be valid.
- B. California EMT certification issued by another EMT Certifying Entity with a lapse of less than six (6) months.
 1. Complete all requirements outlined in Section II.B. of this reference.
 2. Education and skills verification shall be completed within the previous twenty-four (24) months at time of application.
- C. California EMT certification issued by Los Angeles County EMS Agency with a lapse of six (6) months and less than twelve (12) months.
 1. Complete all requirements outlined in Section II.A. of this reference.
 2. Complete an additional 12 hours of EMS CE for a total of thirty-six (36) hours.
 3. Education and skills verification shall be completed within the previous twenty-four (24) months at time of application.
- D. California EMT certification issued by another EMT Certifying Entity with a lapse of six (6) months and less than twelve (12) months.

1. Complete all requirements outlined in Section II.B. of this reference.
 2. Complete an additional 12 hours of EMS CE for a total of thirty-six (36) hours.
 3. Education and skills verification shall be completed within the previous twenty-four (24) months at time of application.
- E. California EMT certification with a lapse of twelve (12) months and less than twenty-four (24) months.
1. Complete all requirements outlined in Section II.B. of this reference.
 2. Complete an additional 24 hours of EMS CE for a total of thirty-six (36) hours.
 3. Education and skills verification shall be completed within the previous twenty-four (24) months at time of application.
 4. Pass the NREMT EMT written examination within the preceding two (2) years.
- F. California EMT certification with a lapse of twenty-four (24) months or greater, requires completion of a new EMT course and meet all NREMT and initial certification requirements as listed in Section I.A. of this reference.
- G. Recertification Issuance
1. EMT shall be issued a wallet-sized certificate card with an effective date when all requirements have been met and reviewed by the EMS Agency.
 2. The expiration date shall be no more than two (2) years on the final day of the month which certification is issued.
 3. Expiration date shall be the same as California AEMT certification or Paramedic license expiration date.
- IV. California EMT certification renewal for members of the Armed Forces of the United States while deployed on active duty

EMTs who are a member of the Armed Forces of the United States whose California EMT certificate expires during the time the individual is deployed on active duty or less than six (6) months from the date the individual is deactivated/released from active duty, shall receive six (6) months from the date of the individual's release from active duty to complete the renewal requirements outlined in Section III.A. of this reference, with the following provisions:

- A. Individual's EMT certification expiration date applies.
 - 1. Certification expiration which occurs prior to deployment for active duty must meet recertification requirements according to the date of expiration.
 - 2. If certification expiration occurs while on active duty or within 6 months of release, the certificate shall be deemed expired.
 - 3. EMT with an expired certification shall not function as an EMT.
 - 4. Live Scan is required if certification expiration is twelve (12) months or greater.
 - 5. If the individual does not complete renewal requirements within six (6) months from active duty release, certification renewal requirements shall apply from the time of certification expiration.
- B. Provision to complete renewal requirements begins at the time of release from active duty.
- C. EMT shall submit documentation from their respective branch of the Armed Forces of the United States verifying membership and the individual's dates of activation and release from active duty.
- D. Recertification shall be issued as outlined in Section II.C or III.G. of this reference upon completing renewal requirements.

CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Manual:

Ref. No. 214, **Base Hospital and Provider Agency Reporting Responsibilities**
Ref. No. 220, **Denial of Initial EMT Certification or Recertification**
Ref. No. 802, **Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Scope of Practice**
Ref. No. 802.1, **EMT Scope of Practice (Table Format)**